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ABSTRACT

An updated version of a 1984 publication, this 49-item annotated bibliography focuses on rhetorical analysis of American feminist rhetoric published in communication journals. The selections date from 1962 to 1988. (NKA)

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FEMINIST RHETORIC

A Selected Annotated Bibliography

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March 1989

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Because of the proliferation of discourse by and about the women's movement, I have included here only rhetorical analyses of American feminist rhetoric published in communication journals.

Anderson, Judith. "Sexual Politics: Chauvinism and Backlash?" Communication Quarterly, 21 (Fall 1973), 11-16.
Categorizes and analyzes audience images of contemporary women politicians according to temperament (the psychological dimension), role (the sociological dimension), and status (the political dimension).

Berry, Elizabeth. "Emma Goldman: A Study in Female Agitation." Women's Studies in Communication, 4 (Fall 1981), 32-46.
Analyzes Goldman's agitation as an illustration of the problems a female agitator encounters in a patriarchal society.

Bosmajian, Haig A. "The Abrogation of the Suffragists' First Amendment Rights." Western Speech, 38 (Fall 1974), 218-32.
Describes how suffragists arrested for picketing and other protest strategies were denied their first amendment rights.

Campbell, Karlyn Kohrs. "Femininity and Feminism: To Be or Not to Be a Woman." Communication Quarterly, 31 (Spring 1983), 101-08.
Argues that the early and contemporary phases of feminism are one rhetorical movement, typified by an ideological conflict between "womanhood" and "personhood."

Campbell, Karlyn Kohrs. "The Rhetoric of Women's Liberation: An Oxymoron." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 59 (February 1973), 74-86.
Describes women's liberation as an oxymoron because of substantive and stylistic features that distinguish it from other social movements.

Campbell, Karlyn Kohrs. "Stanton's 'The Solitude of Self': A Rationale for Feminism." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 66

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(October 1980), 304-12.
The "Solitude of Self" should be understood as a philosophical statement of the ideology of nineteenth-century feminism, which accounts in part for its continuing power.

Campbell, Karlyn Kohrs. "Style and Content in the Rhetoric of Early Afro-American Feminists." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 72 (November 1986), 434-45.
Compares speeches by Ida B. Well, Sojourner Truth, and Mary Church Terrell to the rhetoric of white feminists of the period.

Chapel, Gage William. "Christian Science and the 19th Century Woman's Movement." Central States Speech Journal, 26 (Summer 1975), 142-49.
Suggests that Mary Baker Eddy's rhetoric had ideological roots in the women's movement, which helped account for its appeal and effectiveness.

Conrad, Charles. "Agon and Rhetorical Form: The Essence of 'Old Feminist' Rhetoric." Central States Speech Journal, 32 (Spring 1981), 45-53.
Argues that the essential dramatic conflict of early feminism was between the "Cult of True Womanhood" and the personhood of all women.

Conrad, Charles. "The Transformation of the 'Old Feminist' Movement," Quarterly Journal of Speech, 67 (August 1981), 284-97.
Explores the process by which the "Old Feminist" movement was transformed into the "Woman Suffrage" movement.

Coughlin, Elizabeth Myette, and Charles Edward Coughlin. "Convention in Petticoats: The Seneca Falls Declaration of Woman's Rights." Today's Speech, 21 (Fall 1973), 17-23.
Analyzes the Seneca Falls Convention and the resulting Declaration of Woman's Rights.

Foss, Karen A., and Foss, Sonja K. "The Status of Research on Women and Communication." Communication Quarterly, 31 (Summer 1983), 195-204.
Surveys and summarizes the research on women, gender, and sex differences published in speech communication journals. Five categories of research are described: historical treatments of women, sex differences, images of women in the media, education and pedagogy, and surveys and integrative works.

Foss, Sonja K. "Equal Rights Amendment Controversy: Two Worlds in Conflict." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 65 (October 1979), 275-88.
A fantasy-theme analysis of the rhetoric of opponents and proponents of the Equal Rights Amendment suggests that they share little common ground.

Foss, Sonja K. "Feminism Confronts Catholicism: A Study of the Use of Perspective by Incongruity." Women's Studies in Communication, 3 (Summer 1979), 7-16.
Examines the use of perspective by incongruity in two feminist texts antagonistic to the Catholic church--a speech by Ti-Grace Atkinson and an essay by Mary Daly.

Gillespie, Patti P. "Feminist Theatre: A Rhetorical Phenomenon." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 64 (October 1978), 284-94.
Describes the formation and characteristics of feminist theatre as a suitable response to the needs of the women's movement.

Gold, Ellen Reid. "The Grimke Sisters and the Emergence of the Woman's Rights Movement." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 46 (Summer 1981), 341-60.
Argues that the Grimke's rhetoric served to develop and sustain their sense of selfhood in the face of strong social norms against women speaking in public.

Hancock, Brenda Robinson. "Affirmation by Negation in the Women's Liberation Movement." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 58 (October 1972), 264-71.
The strategies of rejection and negation are shown to have a cathartic and affirming outcome for members of the women's movement.

Hillbruner, Anthony. "Frances Wright: Egalitarian Reformer." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 23 (Summer 1958), 193-203.
Examines Wright's contribution to the egalitarian ideal through her lectures and speechmaking.

Hope, Diana Schaich. "Redefinition of Self: A Comparison of the Rhetoric of the Women's Liberation and Black Liberation Movements." Communication Quarterly, 23 (Winter 1975), 17-25.
While both the black and women's liberation movements share the basic rhetorical task of redefinition of self, significant differences emerge in terms of the issue of sexism, the nature of the audience, and responses to each movement.

Huyink, Cynthia J. "A Dramatistic Analysis of Sexual Politics by Kate Millett." Women's Studies in Communication, 3 (Summer 1979), 1-6.
Examines Millett's motives for writing Sexual Politics and analyzes the rhetorical strategies she uses to accomplish her purposes.

Jablonski, Carol J. "Rhetoric, Paradox, and the Movement for Women's Ordination in the Roman Catholic Church." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 74 (May 1988), 164-83.
Argues that women who are unhappy with the Roman Catholic Church's position on issues and who continue to identify as

Roman Catholics must embrace a paradoxical worldview.

Japp, Phyllis M. "Esther or Isaiah?: The Abolitionist-Feminist Rhetoric of Angelina Grimke." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 71 (August 1985), 335-48.
Shows how Angelina Grimke adopted two biblical personae in two of her antislavery speeches of 1838--the Esther persona, a supplicatory posture, and Isaiah, an assertive posture.

Jensen, Richard J., and John C. Hammerback. "Feminists of Faith: Sonia Johnson and the Mormons for ERA." Central States Speech Journal, 36 (Fall 1985), 123-37.
Suggests that Johnson's appeals to mainstream Mormons can be understood as reformist discourse that become radicalized only in a second stage.

Kendall, Kathleen Edgerton, and Jeanne Y. Fisher. "Frances Wright on Women's Rights: Eloquence Versus Ethos." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 40 (February 1974), 58-68.
Wright's failure to adhere to societal norms for women may have lowered her ethos and decreased the effectiveness of her discourse.

Kiely, Laree S. and Dan Crary. "The Solution That Has no Name: Application of the Social Value Model to Friedan's The Second Stage. Women's Studies in Communication, 9 (Spring 1986), 12-20.
Applies the Social Value Model to Betty Friedan's The Second Stage.

Kruse, Noreen Wales. "The Myth of the Demonic in Anti-ERA Rhetoric." Women's Studies in Communication, 6 (Fall 1983), 85-95.
Contends that the persuasive appeals of anti-ERA arguments were grounded in a mythic order that ERA supporters failed to counter. The 1980 referendum to add an ERA to Iowa's constitution is used as a case study.

Kurs, Katherine, and Robert S. Cathcart. "The Feminist Movement: Lesbian-Feminism as Confrontation." Women's Studies in Communication, 6 (Spring 1983), 12-23.
A comparison of lesbian, reformist, and radical feminist rhetoric reveals that women's liberation is not a unified movement with a single ideology.

Lake, Randall A. "Order and Disorder in Anti-Abortion Rhetoric: A Logological View." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 70 (November 1984), 425-43..
Argues that anti-abortion rhetoric makes use of a descent-ascent metaphor grounded in Christian theology. Sexual activity is equated with a fall from grace, resulting in the pregnant woman as victim. Order and redemption can be restored by childbearing or working for a constitutional amendment prohibiting abortion.

Linkugel, Wil A. "The Speech Style of Anna Howard Shaw." Central States Speech Journal, 13 (Spring 1962), 171-78.
Examines Shaw's speaking style, speeches, and rhetorical effectiveness.

Linkugel, Wil A. "The Woman Suffrage Argument of Anna Howard Shaw." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 49 (April 1963), 165-74.
Examines the grounds of Shaw's arguments for women's suffrage.

Mansfield, Dorothy M. "Abigail S. Duniway: Suffragette with Not-so-common Sense." Western Speech, 35 (Winter 1971), 24-29.
Shows how Duniway's suffrage arguments were based in practicality, freedom, and morality.

McFarlin, Annjennette S. "Hallie Quinn Brown: Black Woman Elocutionist." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 46 (Fall 1980), 72-82.
Demonstrates the importance of Brown as elocutionist, teacher, and political leader.

McPherson, Louise. "Communication Techniques of the Women's Liberation Front." Today's Speech, 21 (Spring 1973), 33-38.
Explores internal (change attitudes) and external (change the societal framework) strategies of the women's movement; concludes that external ones are likely to be more effective than internal ones.

Pearce, W. Barnett, and Sharon M. Rossi. "The Problematic Practices of 'Feminism': An Interpretive and Critical Analysis." Communication Quarterly, 32 (Fall 1984), 277-86.
Uses the theory of the Coordinated Management of Meaning to describe four constructions of feminism and to show how these constructs lead to particular forms of interaction.

Railsback, Celeste Condit. "The Contemporary American Abortion Controversy: Stages in the Argument." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 70 (November 1984), 410-24.
Traces seven stages in the controversy over abortion between 1960 and 1980: professional, narrative, auxiliary ideographic, intrinsic ideographic, normalization, stalemate, and fragmentation.

Railsback, Celeste Condit. "Pro-Life, Pro-Choice: Different Conceptions of Value." Women's Studies in Communication, 5 (Spring 1982), 16-28.
Analyzes the values on both sides of the abortion controversy as presented in popular magazines between 1973 and 1978.

Reynolds, Beatrice K. "An Interview with Ti-Grace Atkinson: Her Speeches and Speechmaking." Communication Quarterly, 21 (Fall 1973), 3-10.

Portion of a much longer interview with Atkinson (former president of the National Organization for Women and founder of The Feminists), dealing with her speaking style, speeches, and public communication in general.

Rossenwasser, Marie J. "Rhetoric and the Progress of the Women's Liberation Movement." Today's Speech, 20 (Summer 1972), 45-56.
Charts the progress of the women's liberation movement through the stages of "genesis and impetus," "action and reaction," and "conversion and change." Suggests what is necessary for the movement to move beyond the current stage to "revision and solidification" and "success and silence."

Schneider, Michael J., and Karen A. Foss. "Thought, Sex, and Language: The Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis in the American's Women's Movement." Women's Studies in Communication, 1 (Spring 1977), 1-7.
Suggests that feminists approach the issue of sexism in language with a strong Whorfian position (language determines thought) which, while beneficial to the movement in several ways, may cost them credibility.

Schuetz, Janice. "Secular and Sectarian Conflict: A Case Study of Mormons for ERA." Women's Studies in Communication, 5 (Fall 1982), 41-55.
Examines Sonia Johnson's conflict with the Mormon Church over the ERA as an example of a secular-sectarian dispute and suggests strategies for managing such conflicts.

Shimanoff, Susan B. "Man=Human: Empirical Support for the Whorfian Hypothesis." Women's Studies in Communication, 1 (Summer 1977), 21-27.
Disputes Schneider and Foss' claim that the women's movement makes use of a strong Whorfian hypothesis in dealing with sexism in language [see WSIC, 1 (Spring 1977), 1-7], and argues instead that feminists employ the weaker, more acceptable form of the hypothesis.

Solomon, Martha. "Ideology as Rhetorical Constraint: The Anarchist Agitation of 'Red Emma' Goldman." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 74 (May 1988), 184-200.
Traces Goldman's use of argument by incongruity and embodiment and argues that, although these strategies are inherent in anarchist ideology, they were ineffective for an American audience.

Solomon, Martha. "The 'Positive Woman's' Journey: A Mythic Analysis of the Rhetoric of STOP ERA." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 65 (October 1965), 262-74.
The effectiveness of the rhetoric of STOP ERA is attributed in part to its strong mythic vision.

Solomon, Martha. "The Rhetoric of STOP ERA: Fatalistic Reaffirmation." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 43 (Fall

1978), 42-59.
Examines the ideology and image of STOP ERA and its proponents, arguing that although its ideology is fatalistic and manipulative, its reaffirmation of traditional perspectives makes it rhetorically effective.

Solomon, Martha. "Stopping ERA: A Pyrrhic Victory." Communication Quarterly, 31 (Spring 1983), 109-17.
Traces elements of a divinely ordained order in the rhetoric of STOP ERA and assesses the social impact of this vision.

Solomon, Martha. "'The Total Woman:' The Rhetoric of Completion." Central States Speech Journal, 32 (Summeer 1981), 74-84.
Suggests that the success of Marabel Morgan's Total Woman stems from (1) its promise of fulfillment if women expiate the guilt they bear for marital discourse by self sacrifice; (2) its reinforcement of readers' perceptions of themselves and their husbands; and (3) its encouragement of sexual fantasy and play.

Spitzack, Carole, and Kathryn Carter. "Women in Communication Studies: A Typology for Revision." Quarterly Journal of Speech, 73 (November 1987), 401-23.
Argues that five conceptualizations of women dominate contemporary research practices in communication studies: Womanless Communication, Great Women as Communicators, Woman as Other, The Politics of Woman as Other, and Women as Communicators.

Wagner, Gerard A. "Sojourner Truth: God's Appointed Agitle of Reform." Southern Speech Communication Journal, 28 (Winter 1962), 123-30.
Explores Truth's rhetorical effectiveness in both the abolition and women's suffrage movements.

Yingling, Julie. "Women's Advocacy: Pragmatic Feminism in the YWCA." Women's Studies in Communication, 6 (Spring 1983), 1-11.
Employs a pentadic analysis to understand the "One Imperative," an anti-racist statement implemented by the YWCA in 1970.